

Sage Notes

Promoting interest in Idaho's native flora

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Idaho Rare Plant Conference, Boise Oct. 19-20 (see p.3)

Eagle High School students got their hands dirty developing the school's Conservation Area

Photos: Jesselyn Hamilton



IDAHO NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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Articles contributed to Sage Notes reflect the views of the authors and are not an official position of the Idaho Native Plant Society.



Native plant education blooms at Eagle High School Pahove Chapter helps sponsor garden and outdoor classroom

Written and photographed by Jesselyn Hamilton, USFWS

How do we encourage students to learn about nature when urban sprawl is encroaching on open spaces?

Eagle High School wildlife biology teacher Brian Fedigan knows how: you bring nature to the students! That's how Fedigan and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service botanist Gina Glenne hatched a plan to create a native plant conservation area—right in Eagle High's backyard.

Fedigan's goal to "provide students with a place to learn about nature and get in touch with it in the midst of the rapidly increasing urban sprawl around them" quickly snowballed into an exciting three year school effort that included school administrators, teachers, students, parents, and other Eagle, Idaho citizens. A small group of Fish and Wildlife Service employees worked with Glenne and Fedigan to plan a native plant area that would eventually grow into an outdoor classroom.

The Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program Coordinator Dennis Mackey provided initial funding, and he and Mary Dudley from the Idaho Department of Fish and Game acquired hundreds of native plants. Bryant Peck, a local farmer, donated his time and equipment to clear the grounds, and Service employees Jesselyn Hamilton, David Hopper and Jeri Wood put on their working gloves to help install the plants. Fedigan also mobilized his students to help. Together, the team transformed the grassy back end of the school grounds. With the help of Zamzows, Mike's Sand and Gravel, the Bureau of Land Management, and a grant from the American Forest Foundation, a lively learning environment with over 360 native Idaho upland plants

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Read Sage Notes in full color online: www.idahonativeplants.org/news/Newsletters.aspx

IDAHO NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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Greetings from the Secretary & Treasurer

Dear Idaho Native Plant Society Members:

Welcome to the fall edition of Sage Notes! Throughout the state, summer is winding down and with shorter autumn days, cooler weather is just around the corner. The kids are back in school, summer vacations are over, and some of our wonderful fall-blooming plants are just beginning to dazzle us with their color.

Hopefully you enjoyed your summer in Idaho and had a chance to get out and take in the spectacular natural beauty of our great state. Since our last edition, the Society and its chapters have hosted many great spring and summer activities and hikes. Our annual meeting, hosted by the Loasa chapter, was held June 24-26 at Castle Rocks State Park and City of Rocks National Reserve. All who attended enjoyed the hospitality of our enthusiastic park host, Wallace Keck, and visiting with their fellow native plant enthusiasts. The area is a treasure trove of unusual and beautiful plants, including the northernmost extension of pinyon pine forest in Idaho. Attendees enjoyed a long hike through the area's many different life zones and because of a cool, wet spring, we saw many wildflowers still in prime condition. We also enjoyed an interesting lecture by Dr. Steve Love on *Eriogonums* and a great BBQ dinner. If you didn't get a chance to attend the annual meeting, plan a visit to the area soon. (Editor's note: The area is at a fairly high elevation, 5,620-6,540 feet in Castle Rocks State Park, so cold weather arrives early, but aspen groves around rock spires make this a great destination for fall color.)

Next year, INPS will be traveling to Sandpoint where our annual meeting will be hosted by the Calypso chapter. We hope you will be able to join us to explore north Idaho's ecosystems and native plants!

Looking forward toward fall, many chapters are gearing up for an off-season series of meetings and lectures. (See p.18 for upcoming chapter activities.) Plans are also being finalized for the 25th Idaho Rare Plant Conference to be held October 19-20 in Boise. This year's smaller format mini-conference will focus on evaluating the use of the NatureServe rank calculator for determining the status of rare plants throughout the state. Look for registration information and a conference agenda to be posted to our web site soon. (See p.3 for more information.)

Watch for the second edition of the INPS Calendar in October. Members submitted over 130 great photos for our photo contest. Judging was difficult but the winning photos have been selected and they will be featured in the 2012 calendar. Chapters will begin taking orders sometime in late September or early October and calendars will also be available for purchase on our web site.

Please consider volunteering with INPS. The Society cannot function without the valuable time and efforts contributed by our state board and committee members as well as our chapter presidents and officers. We are still seeking candidates to fill the vacant office of INPS President and positions on many standing and ad hoc committees are also available. If you are interested in volunteering, or know someone who would be a good fit for any of our vacant positions, please contact one of us or your local chapter president.

Autumn is here! Get out and enjoy Idaho's beautiful fall weather and landscapes. Happy botanizing!

Nancy Miller & Jody Hull
INPS Secretary and Treasurer

Editor's notes: My apologies to Gerry Queener whose name was misspelled more than once in photo credits in the May issue of Sage Notes, and to Juanita Lichthardt who I neglected to credit for the group photo at McCroskey/Skyline in the same issue. *Jane*

INPS State News

Idaho Rare Plant Conference

Mark your calendars now for the Idaho Rare Plant Conference! This year it is a pared-down event, primarily consisting of a “no-frills” rare plant meeting on Wednesday, October 19. The meeting will be held in the BLM Idaho State Office’s Sagebrush Room (1387 Vinnell Way, Boise). We will focus on updating the INPS Rare Plant List using NatureServe Conservation Status Assessments: Rank Calculator Version 2.0 (see www.natureserve.org/publications/ConsStatusAssessRankCalculator-v2.jsp).

The meeting will be followed on Thursday October 20 by a field trip to the Boise Foothills to stretch our legs and check out fall vegetation. We’re also planning a “no host” social at a local establishment on Tuesday night, and a potluck dinner at the M. K. Nature Center on Wednesday night. Registration details will be forthcoming. We encourage all with an interest in and/or knowledge of Idaho’s rare plants to attend.

Before the conference, we need a list of plant species to discuss and rank (using the NatureServe Rank Calculator) as a group. Criteria for species to rank include the following (in order of priority):

- ✿ Plants for which there is significant new information (including species to be newly added to the INPS list).
- ✿ Plants with considerable information stored in “gray matter” (i.e. the brains) of people who are on the verge of retiring, changing jobs, or otherwise becoming less available for dialogue.
- ✿ Plants currently ranked G1-G2/S1-S2 and for which Idaho has the lead.

For each species to rank, substantial information will need to be compiled before the meeting, so a Species Lead will be assigned to each. The species nominator may well be the Species Lead, but does not have to be. When we see the list of nominated species, we’ll pare it down, if necessary, to 10–20 species we can tackle, and organize regional groups for the meeting.

Please send plant species nominations by September 16 with a brief description of why each is a priority. For more information or to submit nominations, contact Beth Corbin, Botanist/Ecologist, BLM Owyhee Field Office: ecorbin@blm.gov or 208-896-5923 (work).

A Tribute to Lois Wythe

Lois Wythe, founder of the former INPS Kinnikinnick Chapter (which is now the Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society), passed away on July 21, 2011, in Sandpoint, Idaho. She was 89. She will be remembered as an environmentalist, Master Gardener, educator, writer, and much more. Read the entire tribute on the Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society’s web site: nativeplantsociety.org/ourfounder.htm

“The legacy of Lois’s dream, drive and passion will be the continued growth and strength of the [Sandpoint] arboretum and the Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society...We salute Lois and support the fulfillment of her vision!”

Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society web site



SAGE NOTES, the newsletter of the Idaho Native Plant Society, is published in February, May, September, and December.

Current and recent past issues of Sage Notes are posted in full color online at www.idahonativeplants.org/news/Newsletters.aspx along with a searchable index of 2006-2010 issues. We are scanning and uploading older issues as time allows.

Submissions: Members and non-members may submit material for publication. Relevant articles, essays, poetry, news and announcements, photographs and artwork are welcome. Authors, artists, and photographers retain copyright to their work and are credited in Sage Notes. Send all submissions electronically to sage-editor@idahonativeplants.org.

Submission guidelines are posted on the INPS web site: www.idahonativeplants.org/news/Newsletters.aspx. Please provide a phone number and/or email address with your submission. **Submission deadlines are January 8, April 1, August 1, and November 1.**

Advertising: Advertisements help reach environmentally-minded, native-plant-loving customers and help support INPS. Prices: 1/8 page = \$5, 1/4 page = \$8, 1/2 page = \$15, and full page = \$25. Personal ads = \$2. Submit ads to the editor electronically (as JPEG, TIFF, PSD, or PDF files). Send payment to: Sage Notes Ads, P.O. Box 9451, Boise ID, 83707

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“Botany and wildlife biology teachers used the Conservation Area this spring to teach students about native Idaho plants and the species that depend on them. In this living learning environment students can enjoy nature, learn about the effects of climate change, practice plant, insect and bird identification, and experiment with gardening techniques.”



Native plants in Eagle High’s Conservation Area

Red osier dogwood (*Cornus sericea*)
 Silver lupine (*Lupinus argenteus*)
 Thimbleberry (*Rubus parviflorus*)
 Arrowleaf balsamroot (*Balsamorhiza sagittata*)
 Firecracker penstemon (*Penstemon eatonii*)
 Hot rock penstemon (*Penstemon deustus*)
 Shrubby penstemon (*Penstemon fruticosus*)
 Sulphur buckwheat (*Eriogonum umbellatum*)
 Bluebunch wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*)
 Blue flax (*Linum lewisii*)
 Western yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*)
 Syringa (*Philadelphus lewisii*)
 Serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*)
 Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*)
 Great Basin wildrye (*Leymus cinereus*)
 Bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata*)
 Mountain big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata* ssp. *vaseyana*)
 Basin big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata* ssp. *tridentata*)
 Woods’ rose (*Rosa woodsii*)
 Munro globemallow (*Sphaeralcea munroana*)
 Baltic rush (*Juncus balticus*)
 Soft stem bulrush (*Scirpus validus*)
 Beaked sedge (*Carex utriculata*)

soon blossomed. The students named their native plant and outdoor classroom the “Eagle High Conservation Area.”

The Service’s “Connecting People with Nature” program provided two years of additional funding to help grow the garden even further. In addition to the native plants, a wooden foot bridge was constructed to make the area handicap-accessible and three interpretive signs were developed to provide educational information about native habitats. Chairs were also purchased to allow students to sit around the garden and nestle into their new outdoor learning environment.

The Idaho Native Plant Society’s Pahove Chapter generously donated \$500 toward the Conservation Area. The Chapter’s contribution purchased plant identification signs, additional native plants to fill in gaps, and provided two truckloads of donated gravel—the last items needed to complete the project.

The project’s greatest success has been student involvement and community partnerships. Over 130 Eagle High School students, under the direction of Fedigan, have worked on the project. These teens literally dug their hands into the garden and became invested in its success by removing the original sod and planting the native plants. Students have also demonstrated their commitment to the project by voluntarily weeding and watering the Conservation Area throughout the summer and school year. In addition, four Boy Scouts seeking their Eagle Scout status involved their troops and other helpers to build the footbridge, lay weed cloth and gravel, plant wetland plants, and install the three interpretive signs.

Botany and wildlife biology teachers used the Conservation Area this spring to teach students about native Idaho plants and the species that depend on them. In this living learning environment students can enjoy nature, learn about the effects of climate change, practice plant, insect and bird identification, and experiment with gardening techniques.

Fedigan summed up the project’s success by saying, “The garden has grown to be a place of great beauty admired by faculty, students and community members alike. They now have a place to sit and learn about the outdoors and Idaho’s different ecosystems.”

By creating the Eagle High Conservation Area, today’s students, our future conservation leaders, with the help of their partners and supporters, have sown the seeds of scientific inquiry and nature appreciation for future generations.

The Eagle High School faculty, students, parents, and all the partners involved in this project are extremely grateful for the contributions of the INPS Pahove Chapter. We invite all of you to come out any time to see the garden and outdoor classroom in full bloom (please just check in at the front desk first). Thanks again!



"The project's greatest success has been student involvement and community partnerships. Over 130 Eagle High School students... worked on the project. These teens literally dug their hands into the garden and became invested in its success..."

Jesselyn Hamilton

Ready to explore Idaho's native plants with kids? Take *Wildflowers of Southern Idaho* with you!

By Karen Colson, Pahove Chapter

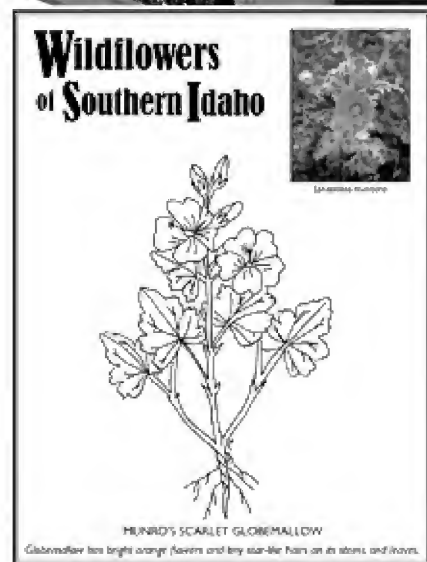
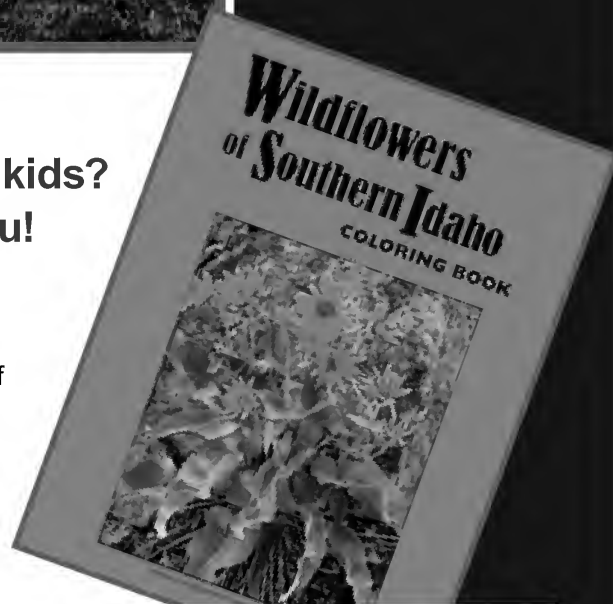
The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Pahove Chapter of the Idaho Native Plant Society are pleased to announce the availability of *Wildflowers of Southern Idaho*, a fun and informative native plant coloring book. The book is designed to get children outside, and interested in exploring native plants and habitats in southern Idaho.

An earlier version of this coloring book was published by the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), with black-and-white line illustrations by Karl A. Urban. This second edition has been revised and color photographs have been added.

Wildflowers of Southern Idaho is more than just a coloring book. It doubles as a kid-friendly field identification guide. Each page features a different wildflower illustration to color, fun facts about the flower, and an actual color photo of the plant in its native habitat to help with field identification. Kids are encouraged to use the book as a field journal too, with extra pages for field notes or drawings of the plants they see while taking a nature hike or just walking around their backyard.

The coloring book was written and designed by Meggan Laxalt Mackey of USFWS, with the help of Karen Colson, USFWS botanist. The beautiful color photos were generously provided by BLM. A limited number of printed coloring books will be available at various Pahove Chapter and USFWS special events until they run out. The coloring book may also be downloaded in PDF format from the USFWS website: www.fws.gov/idaho/education/WildflowerColorBook%20copy.pdf.

What are you waiting for? Grab the kids, a coloring book and a box of crayons, and have fun exploring Idaho's diverse native flora!



“...the Idaho Botanical Garden can help lead community efforts to fight childhood obesity by using interactive exhibits, outdoor spaces, and programming that encourage families to eat healthy food and increase physical activity.”

Idaho Botanical Garden joins *Let's Move!* campaign

The Idaho Botanical Garden has joined the *Let's Move! Museums and Gardens* campaign, an initiative launched by First Lady Michelle Obama, aimed at engaging young people in educational programs to help prevent childhood obesity. The Sawtooth Botanical Garden located south of Ketchum, is the only other organization within the State of Idaho to join *Let's Move! Museums and Gardens*.

As the only organization within the Treasure Valley to join *Let's Move!*, the Idaho Botanical Garden is well-suited for the campaign. IBG offers many opportunities for young people to explore the outdoors while learning about plant biology.

According to the *Let's Move! Museums and Gardens* campaign, an organization like the Idaho Botanical Garden can help lead community efforts to fight childhood obesity by using interactive exhibits, outdoor spaces, and programming that encourage families to eat healthy food and increase physical activity.

“*Let's Move!* is a terrific fit with the Idaho Botanical Garden,” says Executive Director Julia Rundberg. “The Garden offers affordable experiences for families to discover and explore not only plants, but the many wonders and curiosities of outside fun.”

Here's a sampling of youth educational programming provided by the Garden:

- ✿ The Vegetable Garden is a dynamic garden illustrating produce that can be grown for healthy food choices.
- ✿ During Botany Camp for Kids participants plant seeds, learn about food chains, harvest fresh vegetables and make a salad.
- ✿ Nature Detectives for Kids classes for day care centers offer lessons that include games, walks and crafts focused on bugs, dirt and gardening fun.
- ✿ The Harvest Festival, October 8-9, cultivates an appreciation for taking care of the earth; educates the community about agriculture and sustainability; and celebrates Idaho food and drink. The family-friendly Festival includes hay rides and a hay maze, a pumpkin patch, farmer's market, Scarecrow Stroll and educational booths
- ✿ Even in the “dead of winter” the gardens are alive. Winter Garden aGlow, a dazzling display of lights, is a great reason to get the whole family moving through the gardens from Thanksgiving through the first week in January.

For more information on the Idaho Botanical Garden's programs, visit them online at: www.idahobotanicalgarden.org.

To learn more about joining the *Let's Move! Museums and Gardens* campaign and putting children on the path to a healthy future, go to: www.imls.gov/about/letsmove.aspx.



Photos: Idaho Botanical Garden

University of Idaho Stillinger Herbarium

By Pamela Brunsfeld, Stillinger Herbarium Manager & Curator

The University of Idaho Stillinger Herbarium is an incredibly busy place. As the official state repository for plant specimens (due to the land-grant mission of UI) the herbarium currently houses over 165,000 vascular plant specimens and around 30,000 non-vascular specimens. With the addition of around 6,000 vascular specimens a year, and the complete imaging and databasing of the vascular plant collection, currently over 30 employees work in the herbarium.

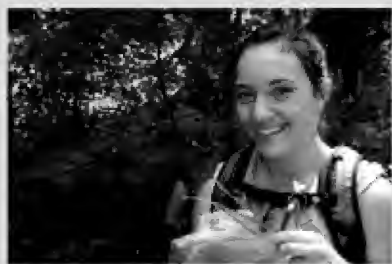
HISTORY: The herbarium came into existence shortly after the creation of the University of Idaho in the late 1800s, consisted mainly of the collections of Louis F. Henderson (1853-1942) and was housed in the Administration Building. Henderson became the university's first botanist and herbarium director. The initial collection of over 10,000 specimens was housed in the University of Idaho Administration building. By 1906 the collection had grown to over 85,000 specimens and was considered one of the best in the country. However, tragedy struck on March 30, 1906, the Administration building was destroyed by fire and the majority of the collection was lost. Shortly thereafter, in 1911, Henderson left Moscow for the University of Oregon, where he continued his extensive contributions to our knowledge of the flora of the Pacific Northwest, earning him the title of "The Grand Old Man of Botany of the Pacific Northwest."

When the Life Sciences building was constructed in the 1920s an expansive new herbarium space was created. However, growth at the University of Idaho Herbarium was slow following Henderson's departure. Notable botanists such as William H. Baker and J.H. Christ continued to explore the flora of the area, contributing to the growth of the herbarium, and by the mid-1900s the collection had grown to only about 50,000 specimens.

In the 1960s Charles R. Stillinger, an avid botanist and Moscow land owner, designated 13 of his properties to be sold after his death. These monies would be used to establish the Charles R. Stillinger Trust which would be used for the procurement of specimens, a graduate assistantship, the purchase of books and herbarium collecting expeditions. The trust was enacted in 1972 along with arrival of Dr. Douglass M. Henderson, a student of C. Leo Hitchcock from the University of Washington. From 1972-1996, the University of Idaho Stillinger Herbarium more than doubled in size to over 100,000 specimens.

Following Henderson's untimely death in 1996, the herbarium saw several directors, however; it was not until 2000, when Pamela Brunsfeld, a former student and herbarium assistant of D.M. Henderson, was hired as the Collections Manager. Under Pamela's leadership, an active collections and curation program involving undergraduates and graduate students was reborn that continues today.

In 2008, Pam was awarded a National Science Foundation Biological Research Collections infrastructure grant and the vascular plant collection was moved from the Department of Biological Sciences in the College of Science to the College of Natural Resources. Also, during this time, David C. Tank joined the faculty of the College of Natural Resources as the University's molecular systematist, and began serving as the Director of the Stillinger Herbarium. The new herbarium in CNR consists of 124 new herbarium cabinets with mobile storage systems and this space also allowed for the consolidation of the College of Natural Resource Forestry Herbarium with those from the Stillinger Herbarium housing all UI specimens in one location. With the move of the vascular plant collection, the non-vascular collection, lichens, and fungi were brought out of storage and are now



Over 30 employees of the herbarium add about 6,000 vascular plant specimens to the collection annually.

Photos: Stillinger Herbarium

accessible to researchers in the Life Sciences South building on the University of Idaho main campus.

STILLINGER HERBARIUM COLLECTING EXPEDITIONS:

The Stillinger trust supports "Herbarium Collecting Expeditions" which allows undergraduate and graduate students the opportunity to acquire botanical field experience. Since 2004 special emphasis has been given to poorly collected areas in the state to further the mission of the Stillinger Herbarium which is to have the best representation of Idaho's flora possible. Not only do these trips result in herbarium specimens for exchange, but add greatly to the knowledge of our state flora and the education of the student participants. Current emphasis is on the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness Area with three collecting excursions this summer, and collections in the St. Joe River drainage where a potential new taxon of *Saxifraga* is under investigation. Since 2000 over 50 students have participated in these summer herbarium collecting expeditions, and many have gone on to pursue graduate degrees in related fields.

THE STILLINGER LIBRARY: The Stillinger library includes over 2000 volumes and is housed in the herbarium where it is used by herbarium employees, students, and faculty. Currently these volumes, which will remain in the herbarium, are being incorporated into the main UI library central database. This will allow books to be accessed through the Stillinger Herbarium where they are heavily used, yet with UI library management for greater accessibility.

OUTREACH: The University of Idaho Stillinger Herbarium is involved in outreach activities with a current emphasis on expertise in the area of Palouse Prairie restoration. Over 500 people visited the herbarium during the past year, including university classes on tour, people seeking plant identification expertise, researchers from throughout the country and the general public. Herbarium personnel also lead field trips for the Idaho Native Plant Society and other organizations.

FRIENDS OF THE HERBARIUM: Although the herbarium is fortunate to have support from the Charles R. Stillinger Trust to fund specific herbarium activities, in 2003 the *Friends of the Herbarium* was established. It allows for fund-raising to cover expenses not explicitly covered by the trust. Through generous donations, this program has allowed for activities such as the purchase and upgrade of equipment, hosting of the annual Pacific Northwest Herbarium Conferences, and the establishment of the Friends of the Herbarium Lecture Series.



Top: Herbarium director David Tank and manager Pamela Brunsfeld.

Middle: All 124 new cabinets lined up like students waiting to get into class.

Bottom: Mobile storage cabinet system installed in the new herbarium.

Photos:
Stillinger
Herbarium



CURRENT ACTIVITIES IN THE STILLINGER HERBARIUM: As soon as the move to the new herbarium in the College of Natural Resources was complete in 2010, the Stillinger Herbarium was awarded yet another National Science Foundation grant in collaboration with herbaria at the University of Washington, Oregon State University, and Montana State University. This grant is to digitize (i.e., image and database) botanical research specimens at nearly twenty university, college, and federal agency herbaria in Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. Once digitized, nearly two million Pacific Northwest records will be available online for the public through an existing Web portal <http://www.pnwherbaria.org>. The specimen data will be downloadable from the website, so anyone can use the information to pursue research interests or answer questions. The expected completion of this project is early 2013.

The Stillinger Herbarium is actively databasing and imaging their vascular plant collection and in one year has completed approximately one half of the project. Employees also assist with all aspects of herbarium curation including plant identification, label preparation, mounting, accessioning and data-entry for new specimens.

For more information on the herbarium please visit the website <http://www.uidaho.edu/herbarium> or drop by Room 22 in the College of Natural Resources any time. Free bookmarks and candy are always available.



Above: Herbarium working area and shelving units.

Right: Emily Poor (left) and Rose Duncan (right) in the keying and computer area.

Photos: Stillinger Herbarium



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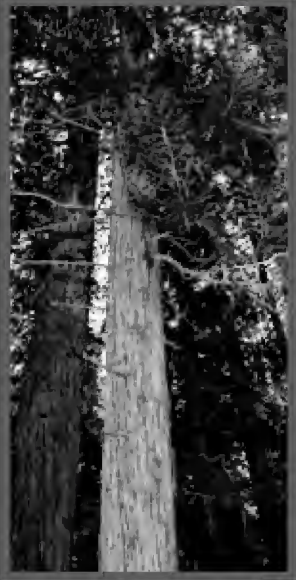
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Lochsa Research Natural Area: a temperate rainforest

By Fred Rabe, White Pine Chapter



Western redcedar is one of the dominant trees in the interior rainforest along Highway 12 in the Wild and Scenic River corridor.

Photo: Jane Rohling



Riffle in Apgar Creek. Some riparian species seen here are lady fern, maidenhair fern, cow parsnip, Rocky Mountain maple, and western redcedar.

Photo: Fred Rabe

The White Pine Chapter of the Native Plant Society and the Friends of the Clearwater co-sponsored a workshop June 11-12 to increase people's awareness of the diversity and natural history of Lochsa Research Natural Area (RNA), a temperate rainforest ecosystem in Northern Idaho. Overnight accommodations were at Apgar Campground across from the Lochsa RNA.

The 1281 acres (519 ha) Lochsa RNA, was established in 1977 to protect and study the unique Pacific coast vegetation or coastal disjunct species occurring within the RNA (Habeck 1988). Over a dozen vascular plant species found here rarely occur east of the Cascades. They have survived at this site since being isolated following uplift of the Cascade Mountains during the Pliocene Epoch (5.3 to 2.6 million years before present). The Cascades blocked west coastal winds and the inland northwest region became cooler and drier. Most temperate rain forests and associated plants disappeared. Those species that survived were located in mountains west of the continental divide in British Columbia and scattered sites in northern Idaho and northwestern Montana.

Earlier studies of the RNA in 2002 by Marilyn Nielson and Fred Rabe described the drainages as steep, entrenched, step/pool streams consisting of high energy/debris transport systems associated with depositional soils. Apgar and Glade Creeks are second order streams with pinnate drainage patterns. Deadman Creek is a third order stream with a dendritic pattern and "B" channel. No information was collected in Chance Creek because the water was too high.

Plant and aquatic invertebrates sampled from Glade and Deadman creeks in 2000, and Apgar and Glade creeks in 2001. (Rabe et al. 2002). In 2010 Paul Alaback, a University of Montana plant ecologist, guided an INPS hike along nearby Canyon Creek which contains disjunct species similar to those in the Lochsa RNA.

Apgar Creek is confined to a steep valley shaded by a coniferous canopy that includes western redcedar (*Thuja plicata*), western hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*) and grand fir (*Abies grandis*). The canopy opens to allow a well developed tall shrub layer dominated by red alder, buckthorn and Pacific dogwood

Glade Creek flows through a less confined valley than Apgar Creek with an open conifer canopy shading the stream. The forest climax type is western hemlock, lady fern and maidenhair fern phase although redcedar is also abundant. No plant information was recorded at Deadman Creek.

Fourteen coastal disjunct species were present from past collections many of which were riparian. Apgar Creek contained an aquatic beetle not seen in other RNA streams in the Clearwater National Forest. Surprisingly, as many as 28 species of macro-invertebrates have been identified from this small cascades/pool habitat.

The forest of relatively moist, warm, lowland conditions consists of western redcedar, western hemlock, grand fir and Pacific yew (*Taxus brevifolia*). This composition is quite different from the pine forests which dominate much of the drier Northern Rocky Mountains region.

Relatively few studies have occurred in similar remote interior rain forests that served as original source habitats and ice age refugia for many wet climate-dependent plants in the Northwest. If preserved as wild corridors, these scattered locales could foster plant species migrations spurred on by climate change (Alaback 2011).

The U.S. Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station sent out the final Natural Area Report in 1999. Since then, funding for natural area programs has all but disappeared as

managers across the country attempt to provide a baseline of natural conditions for research, monitoring and teaching while holding at bay the consequences of encroaching development (Greene, S. 1999).

Sarah Greene (Greene, S. 1999) states that because lack of funding has significantly slowed the natural area program it's important for us to keep the RNA concept visible and in people's minds so it doesn't vanish. We should use RNAs or we are apt to lose them.

Many RNAs are in good shape with no worries about outside impacts, especially those located in high elevation environments. However, low elevation sites, like the Lochsa RNA adjacent to Highway 12, are another story. A large number of megaloads may be traveling Hwy. 12 from Lewiston to Montana enroute to Canada, and the possible continued use of Highway 12 as an industrialized highway could negatively affect the Lochsa River corridor and the RNA, limiting distribution of coastal disjunct species that are vulnerable to disturbance.

If the Lochsa RNA and other such natural sites are recognized and utilized as places of interest or outdoor classrooms, they might receive more care and attention.



Stonefly: *Doroneuria Theodora*, a predaceous stonefly with a low tolerance for poor water quality, was collected by the group.



Aquatic macroinvertebrates were collected from high water in Apgar Creek. The invertebrates were later identified using microscopes set on picnic tables in the campground.

Procedure

Workshop attendees heard Juanita Lichthardt's talk about coastal disjunct species in a shortened version of a program she gave to the INPS White Pine chapter last spring.

Tim Hatten explained the close relationship that exists between terrestrial invertebrates and plants.

Fred Rabe and attendees braved cold water to collect aquatic insects from Apgar Creek. Microscopes were used to identify some of the invertebrates collected.

Tim and Juanita led the group up Apgar and Glade Creek to view plants and associated invertebrates.

Moseley and Wellner (1991) reported the presence of two undescribed earthworms and beetles together with several coastal disjunct plant species in Aquarius RNA on the North Fork Clearwater River. We identified no new plant species or invertebrates over the short period of time at the Lochsa RNA, however workshop participants benefited from hands-on learning by participating in the field observations and collections.



Juanita Lichthardt (standing, second from right) talked to the workshop group about coastal disjunct species found in the RNA. Tim Hatten and Fred Rabe provided information about terrestrial and aquatic invertebrates there.

Photos: Fred Rabe

Lochsa RNA References

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Rabe, F. W., Lichthardt, J. and M. K. Nielson 2002. Established and proposed Research Natural Area streams in the Clearwater National Forest. Idaho Department Fish and Game, Boise, ID and USDA, Forest Service, Clearwater National Forest, 105 p.

2011 ERIG Grants Awarded

By Janet Bala

The INPS Education, Research and Inventory Grant (ERIG) Program for 2011 awarded a total of \$750.00 to two recipients of which \$400.00 came from individual members. We want to thank those that made donations.

The two projects receiving ERIG money included:

1. Rolling Hills Public Charter School, Boise Idaho: Environmental Literacy and Living Classroom Initiative (ELLCI). The project was initiated in the spring of 2010 and grant money will enable the project to be completed by the end of the school year 2011-12. Their initiative provides a framework to teach youth about the natural world. Along with a native plant garden they have a bird and butterfly habitat complete with viewing panels for students to observe life underground.

All class levels are involved in the "living classroom" with different themes applying to other studies students are learning. The final piece will be to install a motion-activated camera that helps students make the connection of how plants support the local food web. Students will showcase the finished garden project by presenting materials and guided garden tours to members of the community.

2. Idaho Museum of Natural History, Pocatello, Idaho: Idaho Native History Garden. An outdoor exhibit at the museum provides visitors a well designed native landscape where they can learn about native plants found historically in Southeast Idaho. Grant money will be used to replace identification tags that have gone missing as well as tags for about 15 new species that have been added to the garden in the last year. The garden was built by volunteers from the Sawabi Chapter and is the meeting place for most of the field trips that the chapter takes.

Both of these projects are already in progress and have strong educational components that reflect the mission of the INPS. All projects funded are responsible for submitting an article to Sage Notes describing the purpose and results of the projects. Stay tuned next year to hear more about the success of these projects.

Pat Hine and Jim Reece taking a break during a hike in the City of Rocks National Reserve.

Photo: Nancy Miller



INPS State News

2011 Idaho Native Plant Society's Annual Meeting By Valdon Hancock

The Loasa Chapter hosted the 2011 INPS Annual Meeting at Castle Rocks State Park and the City of Rocks National Reserve, both headquartered at Almo, in south-central Idaho, June 24 to 26. Participants checked in at the visitor center in Almo for directions and orientation on Friday afternoon. Most camped in the two group campgrounds within City of Rocks, Twin Sisters and Bread Loaves. Some stayed in the developed Smoky Mountain Campground or at the ranch house within Castle Rocks State Park. We had excellent weather all weekend, with moderate temperatures and no rain.



Wallace Keck Photo: Nancy Miller

On Friday evening, we had an enjoyable pot luck dinner near the renovated Ranch House. Valdon Hancock provided information on the weekend activities. Afterwards, Wallace Keck, Superintendent of the National Reserve and Manager of the State Park, gave us a full orientation about the backgrounds of both areas. Prior to our arrival, Wallace posted neatly-identified daily photos of wildflowers at www.facebook.com/CastleRocksStatePark especially for our group. There are now 124 different wildflowers photos in the 2011 wildflowers album! A couple of photos of our group plus more wildflower photos have been added to this album and posted in other albums. The City of Rocks and Castle Rocks web sites contain much valuable information, including a 1995 complete annotated checklist of vascular plants and many maps. Visit: parksandrecreation.idaho.gov/parks/castlerocks.aspx and www.nps.gov/ciro.

Saturday morning at 8:30, members interested in the North Fork Circle Creek hike assembled at the Circle Creek Overlook Parking Area (the ending place for the hike at elevation 6,180 feet). Wallace Keck and some of his staff and other volunteers provided shuttles to the Skyline Connection trailhead at an elevation of 7880 feet. The trailhead was on a subalpine windswept ridge of short vegetation, but the weather was ideal. The area was covered in wildflowers and our photographers were excited to shoot the many species, including Simpson's hedgehog cactus (*Pediocactus simpsonii*), Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja spp.*), Cryptantha (*cryptantha spp.*), and milkvetch (*Astragalus spp.*).

Wallace led 32 intrepid society members across a snowdrift and down the Indian Grove Trail where we admired many yellow goosefoot violets, *Delphinium nuttallianum* and *Fritillaria atropurpurea* and photographed the outstanding scenery in every direction.

The Indian Grove Springs area is a subalpine fir riparian mesic habitat type with cool shade and a wide variety of plants including aspen groves and clumps of alpine prickly currant (*Ribes montigenum*). One species of particular note was the pygmy bitterroot (*Lewisia pygmaea*); the flower was very similar to spring beauty (*Claytonia lanceolata*), which was growing nearby. Later, in a wet seep, we discovered a species not previously identified in the area—Brewer's monkeyflower (*Mimulus breweri*). (A photo is posted in Castle Rocks' Facebook photo album.) We also hiked through sagebrush-steppe, mountain mahogany woodland, and pinyon pine-juniper habitat types, pausing frequently for plant identification mixed with some bird watching. We had lunch at a great overlook at the head of North Fork Circle Creek, under a huge pinyon pine growing against a rock, with limber pine and mountain mahogany also providing shade.



Top: *Delphinium nuttallianum*

Middle: Simpson's hedgehog cactus

Bottom: Alpine prickly currant

Photos: Nancy Miller

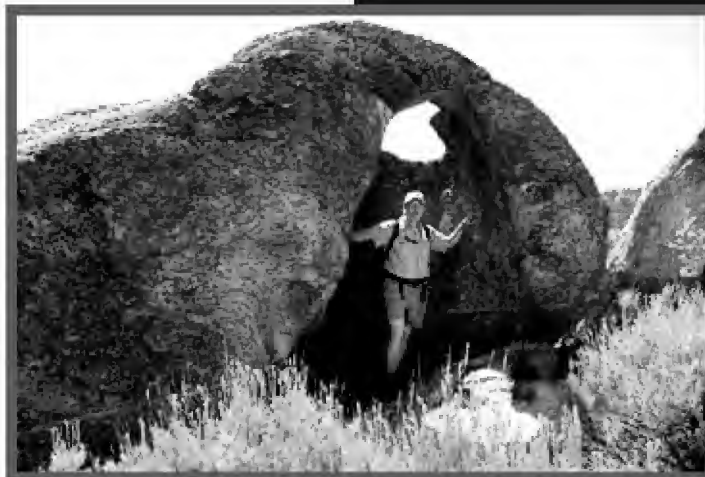
We continued down the North Fork Circle Creek Trail, stopping to see *Allium brandegei* which were nearly through blooming. We moved into the dry sagebrush steppe habitat type and onto the Geo Watt Trail to return to the vehicles at the Circle Creek Overlook about 4 p.m. after hiking 5.7 miles. Everyone made it under their own power, but we were all tired. Wallace took a photo of the group near the end of the hike, which he posted in Castle Rocks' Facebook photo album.

Botanist Carol Blackburn of the Wood River Chapter led a field trip from Bread Loaves Campground turnoff area into Emery Canyon in the morning. She led an afternoon field trip in the Almo Creek wetlands, which were resplendent with *Iris missouriensis*, golden pea (*Thermopsis rhombifolia*) and a couple of rare orchids. The hike also included sagebrush-grass and pinyon-juniper types in the Ranch Unit of Castle Rocks State Park. This unit has a good network of trails and interesting microclimates adjacent to the many granite monoliths used by rock climbers.

Saturday evening, Let's Go Dutch Caterers from Delco provided a dinner of barbecue pork, potatoes, corn, green salad, rolls and peach cobbler. The annual membership meeting was held Saturday evening; the minutes are posted on the State board web site and summarized on p.16 of this issue. During the evening, Loasa Chapter member LaMar Orton, owner of Plantasia Cactus Gardens, gave away plants in drawings.

After dinner, our featured speaker, Dr. Stephen L. Love, Research Professor and Superintendent of the University of Idaho Research and Extension Center at Aberdeen, gave a program on Idaho's native buckwheats (*Eriogonum*) and his work selecting and growing them for use in landscaping. (See related article in SageNotes, May 2011). He passed out a handout showing ten *Eriogonums* of proven value, six of possible value, and seven of unknown value. His reference was James Reveal's *Eriogonum as a Rock Garden Plant* at web address: www.plantsystematics.org/reveal/pbio/eriog/eriogarden.html.

On Sunday morning, members were free to hike and enjoy the scenery while the State Board of Directors met. The board meeting minutes are posted on the state web site: www.idahonativeplants.org/inps/Chapter.aspx?ChapterId=0



Top: Wallace Keck, leading INPS group on a hike in the City of Rocks

Middle: Yellow violet (*Viola nuttallii*)

Bottom: Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja* spp.)

Photos: Nancy Miller



INPS membership meeting notes

The annual INPS membership meeting was held Saturday, June 25 at Castle Rocks State Park. Loasa Chapter member Kelvin Jones gave an overview of the evening's agenda. The membership meeting was conducted by INPS Secretary Nancy Miller, Treasurer Jody Hull and Pahove Chapter president Susan Ziebarth.

Announcements

Nancy Miller talked about elections for state officers that are usually held at the annual meetings. President and Secretary were to be elected this year, Treasurer and Vice President next year. Since we still have no candidates for the vacant President position Nancy proposed we make a huge effort to find candidates and put a ballot in the September Sage Notes for return by members. The group discussed some of the duties of the state offices and the need for a nominating committee to recruit nominees for the 2012 election.

A motion was introduced and passed to accept the minutes of the June 2010 annual meeting minutes.

Treasure's report

Jody Hull gave the **treasurer's report** for 2011 to-date.

Total income	\$3,976.50	from dues, workshops, ads, donations, etc.
Total expenses	\$5,269.03	primarily ERIG, Sage Notes, PO expenses, Web hosting service, sales tax
Net:	(\$1,202.53)	
Checking as of 5/11/11	\$7,386.99	
6 month CD 2/22/11	\$2,915.96	
Total:	\$10,302.95	

Treasurer's report was filed for audit. Due to the loss of Rare Plant Conference income, we are in deficit spending mode. Jody discussed the problem of membership renewals trickling in all year. Membership renewals are due at the end of the year for the following year. April 1 is the past due date. Alan Crockett asked to make a presentation to the Board regarding payment of dues and the exchange of information between chapter treasurer and state treasurer.

Sage Notes

Jody has received messages from a number of members who do not wish to receive the printed copy of Sage Notes (our biggest expense) and have opted to just receive the electronic version. She is working on an "opt out" process. Some membership forms need to be revised to capture this print/electronic option.

Sage Notes has a new editor, Jane Rohling, and the two issues she produced under a totally new format have been well received. The group discussed submission of articles and making photos available to the editor. The committee would like to know in advance if members intend to submit articles. Photos may be uploaded to you Flickr site, or other "cloud" photo sharing sites, and linked to one of the INPS Flickr groups.

Education, Research, Inventory Grants

Nancy and Jody said three proposals were received for the **ERIG** (Education, Research, Inventory Grant) program requesting a total of \$1400.89. The Board will determine how much can be allotted. Jody received \$150.00 in ERIG donations as a result of the Sage Notes article, and Janet Bala received over \$200, primarily from Sawabi members. Presidents should consider ways to raise funds for such projects.

Photo contest

Linda Johnson outlined the rules and regulations for the Photo Contest. (Update: Many excellent photos, which will be used in a 2012 calendar, were submitted prior to the July 31 deadline.)

Rare Plant Conference

Susan said the **Rare Plant Conference** will be held (tentatively) October 19, 2011. More information (time, location, etc) is provided on p.3 of this issue of Sage Notes. Results of the last conferences will be reported soon. Michael Mancuso stressed the importance of the information gathered at the conference in the conservation of rare plants. Consensus among participants on ranking, threats, and other information is used by the BLM, Fish and Wildlife Service and Forest Service in determining protection status of rare plants.

Web site

Sawabi member Ardys Holte, talked about the chapter name change from **Sah-wah-be to Sawabi** and the reasons for the change. (See p.19) Web pages and printed materials will be changed to reflect the new name. Karie Pappani of Pahove chapter added many announcements to the INPS web site; Nancy Miller has maintained Sage Notes and ERIG pages; Paul Shaffer continues to make changes which require more expertise.

2012 Annual Meeting plans

Derek Antonelli, Calypso Chapter, talked about the **2012 Annual Meeting** to be held at Sam Owen Campground near Sandpoint. The focus will be on North Idaho habitat restoration and protection, with emphasis on completed work in the Pack River Delta and proposed work at the Clark Fork Delta; and Scotchman Peak protection. The keynote speaker will be Kathy Cousins who has worked on the planning and implementation of these restorations.

2011 Annual Meeting acknowledgements

Kelvin Jones and Loasa chapter members were congratulated on the 2011 annual meeting at City of Rocks. Valdon Hancock in particular was mentioned for his efforts in bringing about this successful event. Others who were very helpful during the weekend event were Carol Blackburn, LaMar Orton, Bill Bridges, Dale Turnipseed and Lois Rohay. Park administrator Wallace Keck was especially welcoming and provided exceptional support.



Penstemon deustus
photographed at Hells
Half-Acre during a
Sawabi and Upper
Snake chapter field
trip on June 4.

Photo: Ardys Holte

INPS Chapter News

INPS CHAPTERS

CALYPSO CHAPTER

821 W. Mustang Ave.
Hayden, ID 83835

President: Derek Antonelli
Vice President: Vacant
Secretary: Karen Williams
Treasurer: Janet Benoit
Newsletter: Vacant

LOASA CHAPTER

340 E 520 N.
Shoshone, ID 83352

President: Kelvin Jones
Vice President: LaMar Orton
Secretary/Treasurer:
Lois Rohay

PAHOVE CHAPTER

P.O. Box 9451
Boise, ID 83707
Pahove.chapter@gmail.com

President: Susan Ziebarth
Vice President: Elaine Walker
Secretary: Karie Pappani
Treasurer: Jody Hull
Conservation: Chris Colson
Members at Large:
Cyndi Coulter, Karen Colson,
Chris Colson

SAWABI CHAPTER

146 South 17th Ave.
Pocatello, ID 83201

President: Melinda Walker
Vice Pres.: Bob & Chris McCoy
Secretary: Barbara Nicholls
Treasurer: Cathy Frischmann
News to members: Linda Johnson
News to Sage Notes: Ardys Holte
Web site: Catalina Steckbauer
Hospitality chair: Pauline Havens
Conservation/Education
chair: Janet Bala
Members-at-large: Mel Nicholls,
Karl Holte, Dick Anderson,
and Judy Minshall

CALYPSO CHAPTER

When: Meetings are the first Wednesday of March, April, May and October. Field trips are scheduled during the spring, summer, and fall. This chapter does not meet from November to February.

Contact: Derek Antonelli for more information at antonelli8@frontierdot.com

LOASA CHAPTER

All INPS members and the public are welcome to attend chapter events.

When: Meetings are held the third Thursday of each month

Where: Taylor Building, Room 258,
College of Southern Idaho

Contact: Kelvin Jones at (208) 886-7051 for more information

PAHOVE CHAPTER

The Pahove Chapter will begin a new season of presentations in September.

We are excited to see everyone again this coming season. Our schedule is tentative at the moment, but we will send out e-mail notifications as the meetings draw closer.

Chapter elections: New officers will be elected at the September 16 kick-off meeting! If you are interested in serving as a board member to help educate people in our community about native plants, please join us at the meeting (see below for details).

When: Monthly meetings resume in September.

Where: Usually at the MK Nature Center Auditorium. Monthly meeting dates and topics are e-mailed and posted on the INPS web site. (We hope to keep this site current.)

Contact: Visit the web site for more information about Pahove activities: www.idahonativeplants.org, or contact Susan, susan.ziebarth@idfg.idaho.gov.

Pahove member Lynn Kinter heads home from the chapter's spring native plant sale with a wagon-load of purchases.

Photo: Susan Ziebarth

UPCOMING EVENTS

Locations & dates are tentative

Sept. 16, 6:30 p.m.: Pahove Chapter Season Kick-off Party, Idaho Botanical Garden. Bring friends, family, and other plant lovers! We will elect officers while enjoying pizza and drinks in a beautiful setting. Details to follow.

October 19: Rare Plant Conference

The meeting will be held in the BLM Idaho State Office's Sagebrush Room (1387 Vinnell Way, Boise), and will focus on updating the INPS Rare Plant List using NatureServe's Rank Calculator method. A potluck dinner at M.K. Nature Center will follow. See p.3 for more information.

October 20: Rare Plant Conference field trip in the Boise Foothills.

November 10: Presentations by three Pahove members: Jane Rohling will share photos of her trip to Brazil this summer; Alayne Blickle will talk about environmental horse care, especially control of weeds and run-off, and manure composting; and Elaine Walker will discuss writing gardening articles.

December: Celebrate the Holiday season with INPS friends! Watch for details.



January 12: Movie Night with the Pahove Chapter. Enjoy a great movie with great folks and some comfort food. Snacks and drinks will be provided. Film to be announced (possibly *No Impact Man* or *The 11th Hour*).

February 9: 100 mile Hunger Walk (This would be a good follow up to one of the above movies and I think it deserves more time.)

March 8: Danielle Clay, presentation on her Masters research project concerning *Castilleja christii*.

April 12: Michael Mancuso (topic to be determined).

RECENT ACTIVITIES

April 29-30: THANK YOU SO MUCH! Our annual Native Plant Sale was once again a huge success, due in large part to Susan Ziebarth's tireless efforts and dedication. Special thanks, also, to the many volunteers who graciously donated their time and energy. We could not have done it without you! We would also like to thank everyone who purchased plants in support of our chapter.

SAWABI CHAPTER

Name change: Our chapter has voted to change the official spelling of our name from **Sah-Wah-Be** to **Sawabi**. The intent in using a Native American word for sagebrush as our chapter name has always been to honor the traditional knowledge of the indigenous peoples of this area. We owe thanks to Cleve Davis, Shoshone-Bannock tribal member, linguist, anthropologist, and botanist, for giving us the correct Bannock spelling of their word for "sagebrush" to replace the phonetic version of the word.

Tee-shirts: Many of our chapter members are sporting new sage-green tee-shirts with an artistic imprint of glacier lily, Indian paintbrush, curl-leaf mountain mahogany, and (of course) big sagebrush, designed by local artist Jeremias Pink. Should you wish to purchase one, call Cathy Frischmann: 208-406-4559.

Meetings: We welcome the public to our chapter's informative programs.

When: The first Monday of each month, October through May, 7:00 p.m.

Where: Classroom 114, Plant Sciences Building (PLSCI Bldg #69), ISU Campus, Pocatello.

Contact: For more information call 208-716-0218.

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 17 or 24 (tba), Saturday, Goodenough Canyon: Join us to celebrate our chapter's end-of-the-season field trip in Goodenough Canyon near McCammon. See the scarlet, orange, and gold autumn colors in this tree-filled canyon. After the guided flora walk, we will host a potluck in the Goodenough Campground's big picnic area near its flowing creek. Bring a potluck item to share; our chapter will provide the chili. Enjoy the colors of the fall flora, good food, and companionship. For more information, call Bob & Chris McCoy at 208-234-2325.

Future activities: Program topics will be listed on the INPS web site under Sawabi Chapter. For more information, call Barbara Nicholls at 208-233-0714.



RECENT ACTIVITIES

The field trip season officially started in May with a "Kick-Off Plant Walk" led by Karl Holte, ISU Professor Emeritus of Botany. After viewing the early spring flora in the Cherry Springs Nature Area, all enjoyed a potluck at the Holtes' home.

INPS CHAPTERS

UPPER SNAKE CHAPTER

President: Sue Braastad
Vice President: Rose Lehman
Secretary: Alan Crockett
Treasurer: Dave Godfrey

WHITE PINE CHAPTER

PO Box 8481
Moscow, ID 83843
whitepine.chapter@gmail.com

President: James Riser
Vice President: VACANT
Secretary: Pat Fuerst
Treasurer: Elisabeth Brackney
Past President: Helen Yost
Landscaping & Restoration
Plants: Juanita Lichthardt
Publicity Chair: Margaret Ely
Web: Nancy Miller & Patricia Hine
www.whitepineinps.org

WOOD RIVER CHAPTER

P.O. Box 3093
Hailey, ID 83333
President: Carol Blackburn
Vice President: VACANT
Secretary: VACANT
Treasurer: VACANT

Sawabi and Upper Snake chapter members during a field trip to Hells Half-Acre.

Photo: Ardys Holte



Spotted coral root (*Corallorhiza maculata*), a parasitic orchid, Elk Creek Middle Falls.

Photo: Nancy Miller

INPS Chapter News

From May through August, Sawabi chapter welcomed members and the visitors to nine early-Monday-evening field trips and six Saturday/weekend field trips.

Our neighbor chapter, Upper Snake, co-hosted two Saturday trips, to Hell's Half Acre and the Island Park area.

We thank Dick Anderson, Janet Bala, Karl Holte, Linda Johnson, Rose Lehman, Steve Love, Ruth Moorhead, Mel Nicholls, and Melinda Walker for being leaders on these well-attended trips.

The Big Springs, Boundary Trail, Cherry Springs, Kinney Creek, Scout Mountain, and West Fork walks were taken in our nearby beautiful Caribou National Forest.

UPPER SNAKE CHAPTER

When: Meetings are usually held the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Field Trips are scheduled in the spring and summer.

Where: Idaho Fish and Game office in Idaho Falls

Contact: Sue Braastad,
[jsccbraastad at gmail dot com](mailto:jsccbraastad@gmail.com)

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 24: Alpine/Palisades Reservoir Area. Rose Lehman will lead a joint event with the Teton Chapter of the Wyoming NPS.

RECENT EVENTS

April 20: Invasive weeds Mitch Whitmill and Trich Van Wagner from the Jefferson County Weed Department talked to us about invasive weeds. They provided us with a wealth of information on many exotic weeds in our area and how to control them. Among the many species they discussed were Dyer's weed, flowering rush, knot weeds, phragmites, purple loosestrife, salt cedar, yellow star thistle and others.

May 18: Botany 101 Botanist Klara Varga spent a few hours with us giving us a hands-on class on plants and what to look for to identify them.

May 22: As a follow-up to the May 18 field trip/class, Klara led the group to **North Menan Butte** for more hands-on learning about plant identification. A few brave souls ventured up the butte in search of spring flowers.

June 4: Dr. Karle Holte led a plant walk on the Hell's Half Acre trail at the Blackfoot rest area. We found approximately 39 different species in the lava. Some of the highlights were granite prickly phlox, fern-bush, scabland penstemon, filaree, foothills death camas, and one of Dr. Holte's favorites—blue-eyed Mary. We were also impressed by the variety of galls on the sagebrush.

The trip was sponsored by the Upper Snake Chapter and the Sawabi Chapter. There were about 30 participants, some of whom had never been on a plant "crawl" before. They really enjoyed it. It was a perfect day with no wind.
(By Marlene Keene)

June 15: Alan Crockett led a tree identification walk in Tautphaus Park and Rose Hill Cemetery. He pointed out many of the identifying features of the trees which included pines, larch, firs, aspen, cherry, maples and others.

June 27: Alan and Alice Crockett led a group into the **St Anthony Sand Dunes** to observe the St. Anthony evening primrose. We waited patiently for the pollinating moths to show up, but they were shy again this year.

July 9: Sawabi Rose Lehman led a joint field trip with Sawabi Chapter to Island Park and Mesa Falls. There was an enjoyable hike from the visitor center at Upper Mesa Falls to the cliffs above lower Mesa Falls.

August 6: North Leigh Train on the Westside of the Tetons. A joint venture with the Teton Chapter of the Wyoming NPS.

August 8: Board meeting and potluck at President Sue Braastad's house.

WHITE PINE CHAPTER

UPCOMING EVENTS

For fall events visit the White Pine chapter web-site: www.whitepineinps.org or e-mail the chapter officers at whitepine.chapter@gmail.com.

RECENT EVENTS

Thursday, April 14: In anticipation of Native Plant Appreciation Week at the end of the month, White Pine chapter members and guests gathered to hear Juanita Lichthardt speak and present a slide presentation on the river canyon refugia which provide appropriate habitat and conditions for many rare and coastal disjunct species. Juanita, a former White Pine chapter president and frequent field trip leader, is a plant ecologist with the Natural Heritage Program. She used Program area maps for the various North Idaho rivers—Coeur d'Alene, St. Joe, North Fork of the Clearwater, Selway and Lochsa Rivers. For more information, see the May 2011 issue of Sage Notes.

Thursday, May 5: Our second event celebrating Native Plant Appreciation Week was presented by Nancy Miller, former president of White Pine chapter. The topic of her PowerPoint presentation was **Using Palouse Area Native Shrubs in your Garden's Landscape Design**. Nancy, who gardens on the north side of Moscow Mountain, discussed 15 of her favorite native shrubs from this area—most of which are very useful in the garden. Among the features discussed for each were flowering and fruiting, hardiness, availability, use by birds, butterflies, insects, and other wildlife.

Saturday, June 4: INPS White Pine Chapter and Palouse Prairie Foundation have many members in common and collaboration on field trips and meetings is often very useful. Early in June, entomologist Tim Hatten, secretary of the Palouse Prairie Foundation and White Pine member, led a field trip to Smoot Hill Reserve. This 730-acre farm, owned and managed by Washington State University, is one of the largest

intact remnants of the native Palouse Prairie plant community. Tim gave a short presentation when we first arrived on a bumblebee study which was conducted mostly on the reserve.

We walked the steep hills, spotting many of the flowers which make up this unique plant community—arrowleaf balsamroot, wild iris, phlox, paintbrush, etc. It was suggested that Spaulding's catchfly might be present but we did not find this rare plant. It would normally bloom much later. We did see *Astragalus arrectus*, a Palouse endemic found in eastern Washington and ranked S2 by Natural Heritage Programs in both Washington and Idaho.

For more information on Smoot Hill, see the WSU Ownbey Herbarium site: <http://public.wsu.edu/~wsherb/smoot.html>.

Weekend, June 10-11: Friends of the Clearwater (FOC) and the White Pine Chapter co-sponsored a workshop in the Lochsa Research Natural Area (RNA) to explore the diversity and natural history of this unique, temperate, interior rainforest in the Clearwater National Forest. Established in 1977, the Lochsa RNA protects coastal disjunct plants which are usually found west of the Cascade Range.

Juanita Lichthardt, who recently offered an INPS presentation on this topic, helped participants identify and study these coastal disjuncts. Tim Hatten assisted participants in collecting and observing terrestrial insects, and Fred Rabe helped sample and view aquatic macro-invertebrates from the creeks. Field trip leaders also discussed the important multi-functional purposes of the RNA system in the Northern Rockies. Picnics, shared dinners and a campfire get-together rounded out the experience. For more on this area, see Fred's article on p.11 of this newsletter.

Wednesday, June 22: Chapter members and guests attended an evening walk at the Thorn Creek Native Seed Farm of Wayne and Jacie Jensen. Jacie spoke about the seed increase plots and the group hiked on Paradise Ridge to see the many spring wildflowers in bloom.



Parasitic pinedrops were photographed during the White Pine Chapter's field trip to Elk Creek Middle Falls.

Photo: Nancy Miller

INPS Chapter News

Pam Brunsfeld shares some fascinating information about a chemical in false hellebore plants that shows great promise as a cancer treatment with White Pine members during their July 10 field trip to the Giant Cedar grove and the Elk Creek Middle Falls area.

Photo: Nancy Miller



White Pine members examine a cluster of Case's corydalis during the Giant Cedar hike.

Photo: Nancy Miller

Friday-Sunday, June 24-26: A number of White Pine members drove to the most southerly part of the state to attend the INPS State Annual Meeting at City of Rocks National Reserve & Castle Rocks State Park near Almo Idaho. The scenery was fantastic, the field trips informative and invigorating, and the flowers were incredible. Loasa Chapter and park director Wallace Keck are to be congratulated. For more on the meeting, see p.14.

Wednesday, June 29: Pleasant Hill Farm, a native plant nursery located between Troy and Deary, offered an evening tour of their facilities. Pat Mason, owner of the nursery, showed some of

the plants they are growing and described their methods of producing such exceptional plants. At this point they are growing numerous Palouse native plants and marketing them in several local stores.

Saturday, July 9: White Pine members again joined Palouse

Prairie Foundation members on a visit to the Palouse Prairie lands along Skyline Drive and the western edge of McCrosky State Park. Leaders were entomologist Tim Hatten and botanist Dave Skinner. With the late season many Palouse natives were still blooming—*Geranium viscosissimum*, *Ipomopsis aggregata*, Wyeth's buckwheat, *Potentilla gracilis*, *Spiraea betulifolia*, Horsemint, *Agoseris grandiflora*, cow parsnip. Unfortunately we were also able to see numerous examples of invasives which have gained a foothold in Palouse Prairie remnants—*Ventenata dubia*, cheatgrass, St. John's wort, Japanese brome.

Sunday, July 10: White Pine members were led by UI Herbarium curator Pam Brunsfeld on an afternoon field trip to the "Giant Cedar" and Elk Creek Middle Falls area. See Sonja Lewis' article about this trip on p.23

WOOD RIVER CHAPTER

Contact: Carol Blackburn at [blackburncrl at yahoo dot com](mailto:blackburncrl@yahoo.com) for information on activities and gatherings.



Giant Cedar & Elk Creek Middle Falls field trip

By Sonja Lewis, White Pine Chapter

On Sunday, July 10, Pam Brunsfeld led an afternoon field trip to the Giant Western Red Cedar Grove and Elk Creek Falls area. Pam is the Curator/Manager of the University of Idaho Stillinger Herbarium and Systematic Botany instructor.

Spring had finally arrived (at least a month late!) and Pam held out the promise of seeing several individual phantom orchids in bloom (*Cephalanthera austiniiae*/*Eburophyton*), as well as experiencing other coastal disjuncts (see Juanita Lichthardt's program covered in May 2011 issue of *Sage Notes*, p.22). Twenty-three people jumped at the chance to see all this verdant and blooming beauty—including some rare species—as well as plenty of water going over the Elk Creek Middle Falls.

The trip's wettest setting was found in the Giant Western Red Cedar Grove, which is dominated by several very large red cedars (*Thuja plicata*). The "Giant"—177 feet tall and 18 feet in diameter—is reckoned to be 3,000 years old! We were pleased to find several of the stately Case's corydalis (*Corydalis caseana* ssp. *hastata*) in bloom by the trickling stream. It is an Idaho Special Status plant. Interesting shrubs included western yew (*Taxus brevifolia*), Labrador tea (*Ledum glandulosum*) and its skunk-odored relative, fool's huckleberry (*Menziesia ferruginea*). We noted five different fern species and Roger Blanchard identified an impressively large fungi with a cup more than 3" across as a crown cup (*Sarcosphaera crassa*). We also enjoyed seeing the graceful woodrush (*Luzula sreppe*), baneberry (*Actaea rubra*), and abundant wild ginger (*Asarum caudatum*).

Our next stop took us to the Elk Creek Middle Falls area. The trail through grand fir (*Abies grandis*) yielded many pure white phantom orchids (*Cephalanthera austiniiae*/*Eburophyton*)—another Idaho Special Status plant. We found several other orchids, including stands of blooming parasitic spotted coral-root orchids (*Corallorhiza maculata*), *Listera* spp., and rattlesnake plantain (*Goodyera oblongifolia*). We also discovered pinedrops (*Pterospora andromedea*), another parasitic plant. There were lush blooming stands of tiny shrub twinflowers (*Linnaea borealis*), black elderberry (*Sambucus racemosa*), and various lilies and saxifrages. There were whole fields of rosy-pink *Clarkia pulchella* on the canyon slopes above the falls interspersed with other dryish-habitat plants. The falls were exceptional with the late snow melt and wet summer.

Several of us were watching and listening for birds. We spotted a Pacific wren and heard the song of the Swainson's thrush. Notably missing were woodpeckers. We saw **none**, despite all the grand fir snags present, although we did see a few smallish pileated woodpecker excavations. It's not uncommon to hear the pileated's ringing call in the Elk Creek Falls area.

At the end of the hike, Pam presented a fine specimen of false hellebore (*Veratrum californicum*) and shared some fascinating information with us. The phytochemical *cyclopamine* found in this plant, which is responsible for major birth defects in lambs, is now being evaluated for treatment of many forms of cancer. It is currently in stage two testing for pancreatic cancer. What better reminder could we have regarding the importance of preserving native plants?



This zig-zag branch and delicate leaves of Case's corydalis (*Corydalis caseana*) are as beautiful as the flowers.

Photo: Nancy Miller



This phantom orchid (*Cephalanthera austiniiae*) is one of several types of orchids White Pine members found in the Giant Western Cedar Grove.

Photo: Nancy Miller



Sage Notes

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Autumn is a second spring
where every leaf is a flower.

Albert Camus

Jane Rohling